REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants amended claim 31 to make the claim a method claim.

The Examiner rejected claims 30-59 as obvious (35 U.S.C. §103) over Shalit (U.S. Patent No. 5,714,971) in view of Williams (U.S. Patent No. 6,043,816). Applicants traverse for the following reasons.

Independent claims 30, 40, and 50 concern executing tasks with devices, and require: displaying a first tree view of a hierarchy of a first set of user selectable elements representing devices in a first pane of a graphical user interface (GUI) window; displaying a second tree view of a hierarchy of a second set of user selectable elements representing tasks capable of being executed by the devices in a second pane of the GUI window; and receiving indication of user selection of one of the tasks displayed in the second pane and one of the devices displayed in the first pane to cause the selected device to execute the selected task.

The Examiner cited col. 2, lines 8-56 of Shalit as teaching the claim requirement of displaying a first tree view of a hierarchy of a first set of user selectable elements representing devices in a first pane of a graphical user interface (GUI) window. (Office Action, pg. 3). Applicants traverse and submit that nowhere does the cited Shalit teach or suggest a first tree view of user selectable elements representing devices. The cited col. 2 mentions a window or pane in which an object may be dropped. (Shalit, col. 2, lines 8-14). The cited Shalit further mentions dragging an output icon in a first pane to the input icon of the second pane to link the selected item in the first pane to the second pane so that display of the second pane displays the linked item in the first pane. (Shalit, col. 2, lines 13-38). An object may also be dragged and dropped on the input icon to cause the contents of the selected object to replace the set of objects on display in the pane. (Shalit, col. 2, lines 46-57).

Nowhere in this cited Shalit is there any teaching or suggestion of displaying in a hierarchy elements in a first pane of a GUI that represent devices. Instead, the cited col. 2 of Shalit discusses how to link a window with content of another window or replacing contents of one window with another.

The Examiner cited col. 4, lines 43-67 of Shalit as teaching the claim requirement of displaying a second tree view of a hierarchy of a second set of user selectable elements

representing tasks capable of being executed by the devices in a second pane of the GUI window. (Office Action, pg. 3) Applicants traverse.

The cited col. 4 of Shalit discusses a window having split bar functions to split the window into different panes or panes into sub-panes. The window 30 in FIG. 3a shows different objects. However, nowhere does this cited col. 4 anywhere teach, suggest or mention the claim requirement of displaying in a second tree view elements representing tasks capable of being executed by devices in a second pane of the GUI. Nowhere does the cited Shalit anywhere teach or suggest different hierarchical tree views of devices in the first tree view comprising devices and in another tree view tasks capable of being executed by devices in the first pane. Instead, the cited Shalit just discusses an appearance of a split screen window having different and separate panels with different objects.

The Examiner cited col. 4, lines 4-67 of Williams as teaching the claim requirement of receiving indication of user selection of one of the tasks displayed in the second pane and one of the devices displayed in the first pane to cause the selected device to execute the selected task. (Office Action, pg. 3) Applicants traverse.

The cited col. 4 discusses how a GUI window can display navigation tabs for applications to allow the user to navigate to different locations in the user interface. This is shown in FIG. 1a of Williams, where the navigation tab 11 can be selected to show information in the content area associated with the selected application. The navigation tabs are used to provide status information on locations in the application through symbols, etc. The symbols can notify the user of operational status and problems. (Williams, col. 4, lines 39-67).

Nowhere does the cited Williams anywhere teach, suggest or even mention the claim requirements of receiving indication of user selection of one of the tasks displayed in the second pane and one of the devices displayed in the first pane to cause the selected device to execute the selected task. Nowhere does the cited Williams anywhere disclose how a user can select tasks in one pane and a device in another pane to cause that device to execute the selected task. Instead, the cited Williams discusses the use of navigation tabs to allow the user to display operational status info for a particular application.

Accordingly, claims 30, 40, and 50 are patentable over the cited art because the cited references alone and in combination do not teach or suggest all the claim requirements.

Claims 31-39, 41-49, and 51-59 are patentable over the cited art because they depend from claims 30, 40, and 50, which are patentable over the cited art4 for the reasons discussed above. Moreover, the below discussed claims provide further grounds of distinction over the cited art.

Claims 31, 41, and 51 depend from claims 30, 40, and 50 and further require receiving indication of user selection of one of the selectable elements displayed in the first pane or the second pane; and displaying additional data related to the user selected element in a third pane in the GUI window, wherein the third pane is capable of displaying additional data related to selectable elements the user selected in the first and second panes. The Examiner cited col. 6, lines 1-65 of Williams as teaching the additional requirements of these claims. (Office Action, pgs. 4-5). Applicants traverse.

The cited col. 6 discusses the GUIs of FIGs. 2a and 2b in which the user can select tasks from a left pane and display information on the selected task in a right pane. The content area in the right pane displays settings for a task. The tabs in the right pane, such as tabs 11 and 12 in FIGs. 2a and 2b, allow the user to navigate between tasks.

Nowhere does this cited col. 6 anywhere teach or suggest the claim requirement that a third pane displays additional data related to selectable elements in the first and second panes. Instead, the cited col. 6 discusses user selection of task elements in a left navigation pane, e.g., pane 16 in FIG. 2a, and displaying information in pane 14 in FIG. 2a. Nowhere does the cited Williams teach or suggest that the right pane 14 display information on elements from first and second panes as claimed, but instead only shows displaying information on elements selected from a single left pane.

Claims 34, 44, and 54 depend from claims 33, 43, and 53. Claims 33, 43, and 53 further require that the additional data displayed in the third pane in response to user selection of one selectable element in the second pane representing one task indicates information on the task and claims 34, 44, and 54 additionally require that after one task for which information is displayed has completed executing, displaying the second pane without the selectable element representing the task that has completed. The Examiner cited FIG. 3d of Williams as teaching the additional requirements of these claims. (Office Action, pg. 4) Applicants traverse.

The cited FIG. 3d shows an installation complete message displayed in the right pane 14 for the install task of SNMP parameters, as discussed in col. 7 of Williams. However, nowhere does the cited Williams anywhere teach or suggest that after one task for which information is displayed has completed, displaying the second pane without the selectable element representing the task that has completed. Instead, the cited Williams just displays an installation complete message, but does not remove the previous selectable element on the task that has completed.

In fact, Williams teaches away from this claim requirement, because Williams continues to display a selectable element for the task after the task has completed, such as the elements 12 shown in FIGs. 3c and 3d for before and after the installation completes.

Accordingly, claims 34, 44, and 54 provide additional grounds of patentability over the cited art.

Claims 35, 45, and 55 depend from claims 30, 40, and 50 and further require receiving indication of user selection of one selectable element in the first pane associated with all the user selectable elements representing the devices; and displaying additional data in a third pane indicating an operational status of all the devices represented by user selectable elements displayed in the first pane. The Examiner cited col. 8, lines 13-67 of Williams as teaching the additional requirements of these claims. The Examiner further cited FIGs. 6-7. (Office Action, pg. 4) Applicants assume the Examiner was citing FIGs. 6 and 7 of Shalit, because Williams does not include a FIGs. 6-7. Applicants traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

The cited col. 8 of Williams discusses a close tab that removes the navigation tab. The cited col. 8 further discusses purported benefits of the navigation tabs, such as that they minimize the number of open windows, user actions, etc.

Nowhere does the cited col. 8 anywhere teach, suggest or mention one selectable element associated with all the user selectable elements in the first pane that when selected causes the display of additional data in a third pane indicating the operational status of all the devices represented by elements in the first pane. Nowhere does the cited col. 8 anywhere teach or suggest how one may cause information on all devices rendered in a first pane to be displayed in a third pane by selecting another element representing all the displayed devices. Instead, the cited col. 8 discusses how to close a navigation tab and the benefits of the navigation tab.

Applicants further submit that FIGs. 6 and 7 of Shalit nowhere disclose selecting one element associated with all devices displayed in a first pane to display information on all the devices in a third pane.

Accordingly, claims 35, 45, and 55 provide additional grounds of patentability over the cited art.

Claims 39, 49, and 59 depend from claims 30, 40, and 50 and further require that receiving indication of user selection of one of the tasks and one of the devices comprises receiving user indication of dragging one task represented in the second pane and dropping the dragged task to one device represented in the first pane. The Examiner cited col. 9, lines 4-59 of Shalit as disclosing the additional requirements of these claims. (Office Action, pgs. 4-5) Applicants traverse.

The cited col. 9 of Shalit discusses how one may drag an item selected from a left pane onto an input icon to display the content of the dragged item in a right pane. Nowhere does the cited col. 9 anywhere teach or suggest dragging one task to drop on a device in the second pane to cause the device to execute the task. Instead, in the cited col. 9, an item is dropped on an input icon, displayed as an arrow, to cause the display of the content of the dragged item in another pane. Nowhere does the cited col. 9 teach or suggest dragging a task to drop on a device in another pane to cause that device to execute the task.

Accordingly, claims 39, 49, and 59 provide additional grounds of patentability over the cited art.

The Examiner rejected claims 36-38, 46-48, and 56-58 as obvious (35 U.S.C. §103) over Shalit, Williams and further in view of Hower (U.S. Patent No. 5,467,434). Applicants traverse.

First off, claims 36-38, 46-48, and 56-58 are patentable over the cited art because they depend from independent claims 30, 40, and 50, which are patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed above. The following claims provide further grounds of patentability over the cited art.

Claims 36, 46, and 56 depend from claims 30, 40, and 50 and further require the devices represented by the user selectable elements comprise printers and wherein the tasks represented by the user selectable elements in the second pane comprise print jobs. The Examiner cited col.

9, lines 1-67 of Hower as teaching the additional requirements of these claims. (Office Action, pg. 5) Applicants traverse.

The cited col. 9 discusses printer profiles having parameters and rules that may be selected to provide parameters for a print job. Nowhere does the cited col. 9 anywhere teach or suggest the claim requirement that the devices represented in the first pane comprise printers and tasks represented in the second pane comprise print jobs. Instead, the cited col. 9 discusses manipulation and use of printer profiles.

Accordingly, claims 36, 46, and 56 provide additional grounds of patentability over the cited art.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims 30-59 are patentable over the art of record. Applicants submit herewith the fee for a on month extension of time. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0563.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him at (310) 553-7977 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

Dated: Februarv 2, 2004

By
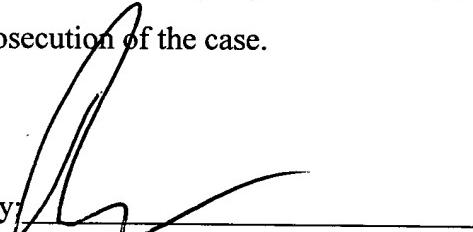
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